(b) if so, the details of various steps taken by the Government to curb the activities of militants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is fully alive to the situation created by the terrorist elements in some parts of the country and is determined to ensure that a durable climate of peace, stability and progress prevails throughout the country. Various steps are being taken by the Centre and State Governments in this direction.

[*Translation*]

Substandard Cables Sold to DESU

3893. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWR AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether substandard cables have been sold to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking by Delhi based cable manufacturing factory;

(b) if so, the details of the companies involved;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against those companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e). DESU has received complaints about supply of substandard cables by M/s. Roxy International Pvt. Ltd., Bhiwadi (Rajasthan); M/s Konark Cables, NOIDA; M/s. Vijay Cable Industries, NOIDA/New Friends Colony, Delhi; M/s. Universal Cables Ltd., Satna (MP) and M/s.Victor Cable Industries, Faridabad. All these firms have their offices in Delhi. Based on the laboratory tests, the cables supplied by M/s.Konark Cables and M/s.Roxy International Pvt. Ltd. have been found to be sub-standard. M/s.Vijay Cables Industries, New Friends Colony, Delhi, who are reported to have supplied inferior quality cables, have agreed to replace the defective cables. DESU has already taken action to backlist these firms besides withholding their pending payments. Action against the remaining firms would depend upon the results of the laboratory tests.

[*English*]

Air Correspondents Posted Abroad

3894. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio corespondents posted abroad are attached to Indian missions;

(b) if so, the position of the AIR correspondents posted abroad while performing this duties as media-men; and

(c) whether the Government propose to redefine the role and functions of the AIR correspondents as an independent news organisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMAITON AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). The AIR Correspondents are not posted in the Indian Missions but are only attached for the limited purpose of drawal of salaries and other allied requirements and

continue to be under the direct administrative control of AIR.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to redefine the role and functions of the AIR correspondents as an independent news organisation.

Freedom Fighters' Pension Cases

3895. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Union Government have rejected about 150 cases of pensions to freedom fighters which were cleared by the former Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of such rejections Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). No, Sir. 34 cases cleared by the former Government have been reviewed by the new Government. Of these, so far, only 3 cases pertaining to Bihar have been rejected. The earlier decision to sanction pension could not be sustained as the eligibility criteria were not met.

Arrest of Pakistani Nationals

3896. SHRI HARIBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Pakistani nationals were arrested at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh on November 14,1 991 for alleged spying;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a protest in this regard has been lodged with Pakistan authorities; and

(d) the number of cases of such activities of Pakistani spies that have come to light during 1.1.1990 to 15.11.1191 and the action taken by the Government against each such case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) No Pakistani national was arrested at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh on 14.11.1191. However, a national of another country was apprehended on that date at Meerut.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) According to available information, 30 cases of espionage/suspected espionage have come to notice during the period 1.1.1990 to 15.11.1991. Action in such cases is taken according to the law.

Post Offices in Tikamgarh and Chattarpur Districts

3897. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Post Office in the districts of Tikamgarh and Chattarpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to open at least one post office in each village; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The existing postal network in these districts is as hereunder:-